

From: Matt Gerber
To: Microsoft ATR
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Subject: Microsoft Settlement

As an everyday user of Microsoft's products, I urge the Justice Department to reconsider penalizing Microsoft for its success in the marketplace.

Microsoft deserves accolades rather than punishment for creating standards for developers to write reams of software to ensuring ease of use by bundling products. It has made my life easier and more productive. It has earned the right to be a market leader, even to demand onerous terms in its licensing agreements. Yet neither I nor anyone else has been forced to accept Microsoft's products and services. Every transaction I or anyone has ever conducted with Microsoft has been on a voluntary basis.

Our country, created to protect the individual rights to life, liberty, pursuit of happiness, and property, should ensure that Microsoft keeps what it has earned, not strangle it for its success. If Microsoft is not left free to produce and grow, then all companies would think twice about becoming too successful, about achieving too high a market share, about striving for excellence.

The abridged rights of one company affect the rights of all. Microsoft has been a shining beacon of what makes America great; please do not punish that greatness.

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